



# City of Lucas

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## Blondy Jhune Bridges Construction Update #8

Dear All,

The construction focus for the next two or three weeks will be on the drill shaft construction. The drill shafts are the piers or legs of the bridge abutments. The abutments hold up each end of a bridge. There are four abutments on this project: two at each bridge. Each abutment is held up (or stands) on four drill shafts. Last week excavation of the abutment areas was taking place, and today a surveyor cited the eight spots where the drilling for the shafts should take place at the west bridge. After the shaft holes are drilled, a steel cage will be placed in each hole before the hole is filled with concrete. The concrete is strong in compression, and the steel cages are strong in tension. When a large, heavy truck passes over the new bridge, the concrete will hold the bridge up. When wind or water tries to lift the bridge, the steel cage will hold the bridge down. The old bridges had no drill shafts. The picture shows the end of one of the steel cages laying on its side. When placed in the hole, the cage will be vertical. The large steel bars are about the size of a garden hose. The spiral steel holds the large bars straight. All 16 of the 36-inch-diameter steel cages are made by hand and on-site.



Sincerely,

Stanton Foerster, PE  
Public Works Director/City Engineer